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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Philippines*: draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, endorsed in General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979 and subsequently reaffirmed in Assembly resolution 44/14 A of 26 October 1989,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 2/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ the Cartagena Commitment, 4/ adopted

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

2/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (TD/364/Rev.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect. A.

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the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, the recommendations and decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly those contained in Agenda 21, 5/ General Assembly resolutions 46/165 of 19 December 1991 and 48/179 of 21 December 1993, and other resolutions and decisions adopted by organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerning science and technology for development,

Bearing in mind the vital contribution of science and technology, including new and emerging technologies, to the promotion of economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, and stressing the importance of monitoring new developments in science and technology and their implications for society, on production, employment and international competitiveness, especially for developing countries,

Recognizing the importance for developing countries of having access to science and technology so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the world market, and stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how, in particular to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries,

Stressing the need to further promote endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries so as to enable them to participate in, benefit from and contribute to the rapid advances in science and technology,

Recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and recognizing also their far-reaching implications for society,

Reaffirming that the United Nations should play a central role in the promotion of cooperation in science and technology, and in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve the objectives set forth by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in this regard,

Commending the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in promoting the developing countries' endogenous capacity in science and technology, and recognizing its unique role as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for the improvement of the understanding of science and technology policies for development and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

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5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Stressing the need to further strengthen, within the context of the forthcoming ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the role of the Conference in science and technology,

Expressing concern over the continued inadequacy of resources devoted to fostering science and technology for development,

Recognizing the need for Governments, and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure women better access to and participation in scientific and technological areas, especially those areas where they are not represented or are underrepresented,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, 6/

1. Endorses the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its second session; 7/

2. Reaffirms that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should remain a priority issue in the United Nations agenda, and urges that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad as well as to modify and adapt them to suit local conditions;

3. Calls upon the international community, particularly developed countries and international organizations, to fulfil all their commitments as affirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21, 5/ in particular on the effective access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, including new and emerging technologies and publicly owned technologies, to developing countries on concessional and preferential terms, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries, so as to enable those developing countries to meet their development-related challenges;

4. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology, particularly through effective policy guidance and better coordination, including in international cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting;

5. Calls upon United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to work in a coordinated manner to develop a catalogue of proved technologies to enable

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6/ A/50/649.

7/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 11 (E/1995/31).

effective technology choice, by developing countries, of state-of-the-art technologies;

6. Calls upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to interact effectively, through the Economic and Social Council, in carrying out their respective mandates;

7. Takes note of the developments at the Consultative Meeting on a Coalition of Resources for Science and Technology for Development and welcomes the recommendation of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should provide a forum for exchanging views and interaction among partners of different networks and coordination schemes;

8. Reaffirms the need for adequate financial resources on a continuous and assured basis to foster science and technology for development, in particular to promote endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in accordance with their priorities;

9. Notes with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 48/179 and invites him to continue to take all necessary measures, including to explore the possibility of organizing a more effective coalition of resources within the United Nations development system, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks and bilateral funding agencies to ensure the full implementation of programme 17, science and technology for development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and the activities planned for 1996-1997 in the field of science and technology for development, in accordance with specific mandates provided for in the relevant Assembly resolutions;

10. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and the need of further advancing such cooperation through the establishment and/or the strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional and interregional and global levels to promote technology research, development and dissemination among developing countries, and urges the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and programmes to provide continued and enhanced support, through technical assistance and financing for such efforts;

11. Welcomes the endorsement by the Economic and Social Council of the decision of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to select information technologies as the main substantive theme of its work during the inter-sessional period 1995-1997 and to set up panels and/or working groups to analyse, and elaborate and make recommendations on issues pertaining to information technologies and their implications for development;

12. Takes note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to consider ways and means for the formulation of a common vision regarding the future

contribution of science and technology for development, taking advantage of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna in 1979;

13. Stresses the important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and calls on all countries in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress in the implementation of the present resolution.